

BASEBALL—SPORTS OF ALL SORTS—BOXING

THEATRICAL MEN BUY BOSTON AMERICAN BALL CLUB

By Mark Shields

Why the American league is successful over the National is again evidenced in the sale of the Boston Red Sox by J. J. Lannin to Harry H. Frazee of New York and Hugh Ward of Philadelphia, well-known theatrical magnates.

The price paid is said to be in the neighborhood of \$700,000, and, though the sale has not yet been ratified by the league, there is no doubt that it will stick.

Frazee owns the Cort theater here and also owns a showhouse in New York. He and Ward are interested together in many theatrical enterprises, but this is the first time they have ever owned such a galaxy of prima donnas. Bill Carrigan says his retirement as manager of the Red Sox will stick, and the club is also without a secretary.

That leaves affairs in something of a muddle.

Lannin worked himself into the bad graces of President Ban Johnson by making charges against umpires during the recent flag campaign. Johnson denies that Lannin was forced out or even influenced to quit, but history shows that any American league club owner who kicks over the traces is due for a hurried exit.

The American is a centrally-controlled organization, working in complete harmony, at least on the surface. No matter how bitter the owners may be about each other in private, for public consumption they are all little brothers. When one becomes too obstreperous he departs from the family.

On the other hand, the National is as peaceful as three lions in a den and bickering between club owners is constant. Whether you approve of the czar government of the American

or not, it must be admitted that it is the more successful method in baseball.

An example: Barney Dreyfuss of Pittsburgh does not like the idea of the national commission being made up of three men directly interested in baseball, one of the trio being a club owner. He asked a new deal. Now comes Ban Johnson with the information that Garry Herrmann, chairman of the commission, will probably be dropped and an outsider chosen to act with Johnson and President Tener of the National on the governing board.

Herrmann has been in hot water for some time, but members of his own league were unable to discipline him. But along comes Ban, says the American league does not like the idea of being a minority on the commission and the situation is simplified.

Johnson says there is little to criticize in the work of Herrmann, but it is not consistent with the standing of the two leagues to have the National in control. Be that as it may, his plan for the elimination of Herrmann will appease Dreyfuss, iron out the difficulties and still leave Ban as one of the commission.

Rex Dawson, pitcher for Indianapolis in the American ass'n last summer, has sent his signed contract to the Cub offices. Dawson has won 20 and lost 14 for Indianapolis. His only fault was wildness, and this was overcome during the latter part of the season.

Owner Jim Dunn of the Cleveland Indians announces that Lee Fohl will manage the club in 1917. Fohl deserved the chance, despite the stories that he was to be deposed.

Willie Hoppe defeated G. Butler Sutton of Chicago, 1,500 to 508, in their 18-2 billiard match at St. Louis. Hoppe ran his last block of 500 in 11 innings.

The Litzinger cup champions.